

A photograph of a glass bottle of maple syrup and a small glass bowl filled with syrup, both resting on a piece of burlap fabric which is placed on a wooden surface. The bottle is tilted, showing the syrup inside. The background is a close-up of the wood grain.

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

**2017
ANNUAL REPORT**

Table of Contents

1 COMMISSIONER INITIATIVES

Veterans to Agriculture
Agriculture Advisory Board

2 ANIMAL HEALTH

Animal Disease Traceability
Animal Disease Control
Equine
Apiary
Poultry Industry
Scrapie
Guthrie Laboratory Testing and AHMS
Agreement Reporting

4 FARMS

Huttonsville, Pruntytown & Lakin
General John McCausland Memorial Farm
Corrections
Timber
Livestock Staff/Public Markets

5 EMERGENCY RESPONSE READINESS

Homeland Security Unit
Activities of the HSU

6 FOOD SAFETY

Food and Dairy Testing
Food Emergency Response Network
ISO Accreditation and Food Sampling Plan

8 AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY PROTECTION

Agriculture Industry
Fertilizer
Lime
Seed

9 FOREST HEALTH

Agriculture Pest Survey Program
Forest Health Protection Programs
Industrial Hemp
Timber Inspection
Calendar Year 2015
Calendar Year 2016
Calendar Year 2017

11 COMMODITIES

Food Distribution and Child Nutrition Programs
WVDA Food Distribution Section
Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program

12 AGRICULTURE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture Business Development Division
West Virginia Grown
West Virginia Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture
Agribusiness Opportunities
Seven Emerging Crops

13 CURRENT FISCAL PICTURE

Administrative Services Division
Fiscal Management
Building and Grounds
Fiscal Position

14 LOAN PROGRAM

Fiscal Position Rural Rehabilitation Program

15 AG STATS

Sources of Information
Selected Red Meat and Chicken Consumption
Per Capita for the United States

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Commissioner Initiatives

VETERANS AND WARRIORS TO AGRICULTURE

As a former United States Marine Lt. Colonel, helping veterans has always been a top priority. I believe wholeheartedly that agriculture can help the men and women who have served our country transition from the battlefield to field work. From providing a career path after their service to healing the unseen wounds of war, agriculture has a role to play for our veterans. This year, we have seen our Veteran and Warriors to Agriculture program grow by leaps and bounds. Established in 2014, a record number of veterans joined the program this year as the department continues to provide training and outreach.

In addition to tremendous growth, the department has found new, innovative ways this year to provide additional services to program participants. In July, we signed an agreement with the Farmer Veteran Coalition to utilize the Homegrown By Heroes branding. This will provide a competitive marketing edge to West Virginia Veteran farmers and their products. Additionally, we have been working with partners, including the Department of Defense and the Soldiers for Life program, to establish West Virginia as the premier training location for Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture programs. Lastly, we held the first ever Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture stakeholder meeting during the State Fair of West Virginia. Over 60 veterans and partners came together to discuss issues facing our participants and how we can move this initiative forward.



Successful programs are measured by the lives bettered. Our Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture program has saved the lives of at least eight veterans, according to participants. That is eight veterans that would not be here today without this effort. What must be noted is the success of this program has come with zero monies from the state budget. It is time our state fully funds this effort. During the 2018 Legislative session, we will be asking for a \$250,000 appropriation to increase the program's reach and services. We have a duty to help those who have served.

AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD

In July of 2017, the Governor, WVU Extension Services and myself relaunched the Agriculture Advisory Board. Our goal was to bring a comprehensive, well-thought-out strategy to West Virginia agriculture. For too long, the government has been picking winners and losers like the flavor of the day. It is time we figure out a path forward that makes sense for our state given our weaknesses and strengths. As our state looks to rediversify our economy, we must look at agriculture to be a part of the solution.

The board will be tasked with determining industry gaps, barriers to growth, growing sectors and any information related to agriculture and its economic impact. To aid with this effort, the WVDA will conduct an economic impact study to gather a comprehensive outlook on the current state of agriculture in West Virginia. This study will be presented to the West Virginia Agriculture Advisory Board to help guide the development of a strategic plan for agriculture in West Virginia. This plan will be used to set initiatives to grow West Virginia's economy through agriculture. The board's goal is to have this plan written and ready for implementation by the summer of 2018.

Semper Fi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kent".



Animal Health

The mission of the Animal Health Division is to prevent, suppress and control any communicable diseases of animals or poultry as mandated by West Virginia law. WVDA laboratories in Moorefield and Charleston are actively devoted to the front line of defense for disease control. The Moorefield Animal Health Diagnostic Lab is an authorized national Poultry Improvement Plan Lab and a NAHLN (National Animal Health Laboratory Network) laboratory.

ANIMAL DISEASE TRACEABILITY (ADT)

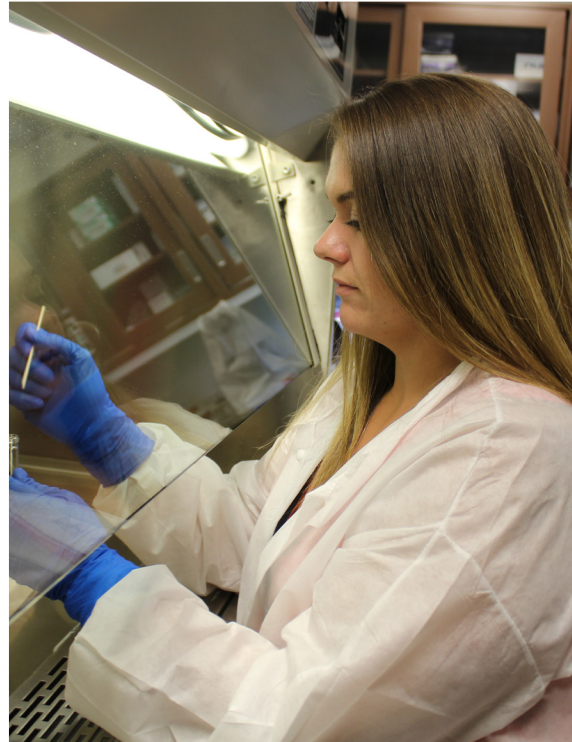
Animal Disease Traceability's purpose is the control of disease through the ability to trace an animal from its farm of origin to its ultimate endpoint. The WVDA's Animal Health Division has registered approximately 10,630 of those premises, with 97 new registrations in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. Under the federal regulations, both Brite tags and 840 Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags are acceptable forms of official identification. During the FY, 12,199 840 RFID tags were distributed to West Virginia cattle producers and private veterinarians. One thousand two hundred and eighty-five official calf hood vaccinate (OCV) 840 RFID tags were distributed to private veterinarians. Additionally, 7,600 Brite tags have been distributed to West Virginia cattle producers and private veterinarians and 100 OCV Brite tags have been distributed to private veterinarians.

ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL

Throughout FY 2017, WVDA Animal Health Division livestock technicians examined animals for signs of disease at markets, fairs, festivals and on the farm. Animal Health Inspectors examined cattle, goats, equines, sheep, swine, backyard flock poultry plus various other animals being shown at West Virginia's fairs/festivals and livestock marketing systems. WVDA inspects honor flocks and caprine honor herds that require yearly inspection and certified and accredited herd records maintained. Moorefield, specializing in poultry issues, conducted 251,984 tests during FY 2017. The Charleston lab added aquaculture testing to our repertoire along with Bluetongue (BT) and Bovine Leukosis Virus (BLV) for cattle export testing.

EQUINE

Animal Health field staff monitor market sales to ensure proper testing is completed before the sale of all equines. An allowance was made for equines to be tested at the market and removed to the new owner's facility and quarantined until negative results are received, after which, the equine may move freely within the state. Compliance to the new rule at pleasure events is exceptionally high.



APIARY

There has been a lot of buzz around the bee industry in West Virginia. Hive operations are growing throughout the state with 5,000 colonies producing 160,000 lbs. of honey in 2016. The WVDA has two state apiarists on staff. They aid and inspect the industry as well as collect data on the number of beekeepers and colonies. Varroa mites continue to be a concern for beekeepers. The WVDA is exploring partnerships around the state with veterinarians to combat the pest. WVDA regulates all colonies and product for sale that cross state lines.

POULTRY INDUSTRY

West Virginia agriculture is primarily comprised of chicken and turkey producers and their parent hatching egg production flocks. Positive growth of the industry must include cooperation between the WVDA, United States Dept of Agriculture and the various poultry companies in the state. Commercial poultry is the state's largest agricultural sector with a \$325 million annual value of production. Poultry disease surveillance is essential to protect a valuable rural industry, and to ensure that foreign markets remain open to U.S. poultry. Avian Influenza (AI) surveillance and control are essential to maintaining free international trade and eliminate production losses due to infection.

- All National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) premises were pleased with the education materials; specifically, AI and information on bio-security that were distributed. We received positive feedback concerning field staffs enthusiasm and their ability to explain the program and the benefits of bio-security.
- The NPIP flocks take great pride in being a NPIP participant. They are anxious to receive the participation certificate and card to display.
- All poultry companies involved continue to work together to form a response team involving two designated personnel plus two replacements as an initial response team to the index flock.

SCRAPIE

West Virginia Department of Agriculture Animal Health employees continue to participate in the USDA Scrapie Surveillance Program. Currently, only New Zealand and Australia are recognized as scrapie free. A scrapie-free status would dramatically open markets for American sheep producers on a worldwide scale. The national goal has fallen short of the mark, but scrapie is far less prevalent than when this program was first implemented.

GUTHRIE LABORATORY TESTING AND AHMS AGREEMENT REPORTING

Identification, eradication and maintenance of disease-free status for West Virginia are essential functions of the Animal Health Division. Testing for brucellosis is conducted in the Guthrie Laboratory to ensure this. Our Animal Health Monitoring System (AHMS) agreements are used to support testing and reporting for tuberculosis and brucellosis. Our free-state status depends on the results from these programs. During FY 2017, the Guthrie Animal Health Laboratory conducted the following tests:

- Brucella BAPA (Buffered Acidified Plate Antigen) on 1,833 bovine samples and 54 swine samples.
- Brucellosis testing on bovine samples includes 149 Brucellosis Ring tests.
- Caprine card brucellosis (10-G) tests were run on 93 samples, while other species card tests (10-S) were run on an additional 107 samples.
- Pseudorabies testing was conducted on 44 specimens.
- Enzyme Linked Immunoassay (ELISA) test procedures were utilized on 787 samples to test for the presence of Johne's disease and 87 samples were tested for Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE).
- 411 ELISA BLV (Bovine Leukemia Virus) testing.
- Coggins testing for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) was conducted on 8,889 specimens, while specimen underwent confirmatory testing utilizing Agar Gel Immunodiffusion (AGID) methods.
- The Guthrie laboratory tested 52 samples for the presence of Leptospirosis. This bacterial disease affects many species, including dogs, cats, cattle and horses.



Farms

HUTTONSVILLE, PRUNTYTOWN & LAKIN

State owned farms operated by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture continue to be responsible for over 9,700 acres of institutional farmlands at Huttonsville, Pruntytown and Lakin. The farms are primarily involved in the production of hay and feeder cattle, which are marketed or transported to Huttonsville to be finished inside the 300-head enclosed feedlot.

WVDA farms successfully bred and calved more than 500 beef cattle. These farms also produced more than 5,000 round bales of hay valued at \$250,000. Approximately 30,000 bushels of corn were produced at the Huttonsville farm. The Lakin farm continued its "Farm to Fork" program allowing residents to lease 1-5 acre plots of land to grow vegetables. WVDA continued its animal health and vaccination program and are working on our rotational grazing and mineral programs to improve beef cattle performance.

Two capital improvement projects occurred this FY: a renovation of cattle working and loading facilities at the Pruntytown farm and renovations and repairs to the "mule barn" at Huttonsville farm. Specific programs were put in place at all farms to expand and renovate pastures, which included bush hogging and/or spraying approximately 1,000 acres.

GENERAL JOHN MCCAUSLAND MEMORIAL FARM

The General John McCausland Memorial farm located near Henderson, WV is a demonstration facility primarily focused on beef cattle production. During this past year, farm staff were responsible for the management of 90 spring calving cows which were bred to Angus bulls. Those calves were grown to a yearling weight of 900 pounds and marketed locally through a cooperative agreement. This location also produced 55 acres of field corn around 19 ton per acre of silage.

CORRECTIONS

State owned farms continued to be responsible for the supply and delivery of beef and pork to 19 public institutions. During the past year, West Virginia institutional farms delivered more than 300 head of beef and more than 400 head of pork valued at \$500,000. Inmates logged more than 25,000 hours of labor on the farms. This provided value to the state as well as a learning opportunity for inmates. Inmates were used primarily in haymaking and calving.

TIMBER

WVDA farm employees oversaw two timber projects. The first was the completion of a timber harvest at the Huttonsville Farm which began in FY 2016. More than 580,000 board feet of timber and approximately 1,600 tons of pulpwood were harvested on the property. The second is an ongoing timber project which will be completed in 2018 on the Becky's Creek tract at the Huttonsville Farm. Upon completion, more than 400,000 board feet of lumber and approximately 4,500 tons of pulp wood will be harvested.

LIVESTOCK STAFF/PUBLIC MARKETS

During the past year, WVDA livestock specialists graded and marketed approximately 50,000 head of feeder cattle through board sales, calf pools and in-barn sales. Staff also graded more than 4,000 sheep and lambs valued at \$480,000.



Emergency Response Readiness

HOMELAND SECURITY UNIT

The Homeland Security Unit (HSU) is assigned to the Executive Division of the WVDA. The unit provides training, guidance and preparation for emergency response situations that present or may present themselves to the department. Education of employees and stakeholders relating to awareness of disease, natural disaster or other emergency situations is paramount. Knowledge of available physical and human resources within the department and throughout the community, are important keys to response preparation. It is important to keep a well-trained, well informed staff with equipment in good working order and sufficient supplies to respond quickly, if need arises.

THE FOLLOWING REFLECTS ACTIVITIES OF THE HSU:

The HSU represents the WVDA at approximately 20 organizations included but not limited to: USDA State Emergency Board, WV State Emergency Response Commission, Kanawha-Putnam Local Emergency Planning Committee, Statewide Interoperable Radio Network (SIRN), State Interoperable Executive Committee, SIRN Region-One Chairman. They are also present at various meetings and task forces of the WV Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), the WV Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety (WVDMAPS) and WV Division of Homeland Security Emergency Management (WVDHSEM), WVs representative and on the board of directors of the National Alliance of State Animal and Agriculture Emergency Programs (NASAAEP), Southern Agriculture Disaster Response Alliance (SAADRA) and other related organizations.

- Serve as the Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11-point of contact for FEMA during the 2016 WV flood.
- Assist WVDMAAPS in the development of WV Homeland Security Strategy.
- Work with WV Critical Infrastructure Group to identify WV agriculture assets and assist in providing a network to work with all parties.
- Present displays and information at various fairs, festivals and public events.
- Provide staff, transportation, equipment and supplies to other WVDA divisions for assistance at various fairs, festivals and public events, including but not limited to the State Fair of WV, Mountain State Arts & Crafts Festival, etc. Disinfect facilities at the State Fair of WV and set up command post for Animal Health Division. Disinfect facilities at WVU Farm at Wardensville and at Lost River. Provide two-way radios, handwashing stations, animal panels, weighing scales and other items to various organizations for use.
- Work with the WV Intelligence Fusion Center in the development and dissemination of agriculture-related intelligence reports. This includes serving as liaison for agricultural-focused reports. Serve as a Fusion Liaison Officer (FLO).
- Serve as the facilitator for the development and implementation of the WV Pets Task Force. Provide assistance to county agencies related to developing county animal response plans to complying with the Pets Evacuation Act of 2006.
- Assist WVDA Animal Health Division field staff related to specific animal disease incidents.
- Conducted two bio-security classes for WVDA employees.
- Conducted five AED/First Aid/CPR classes.

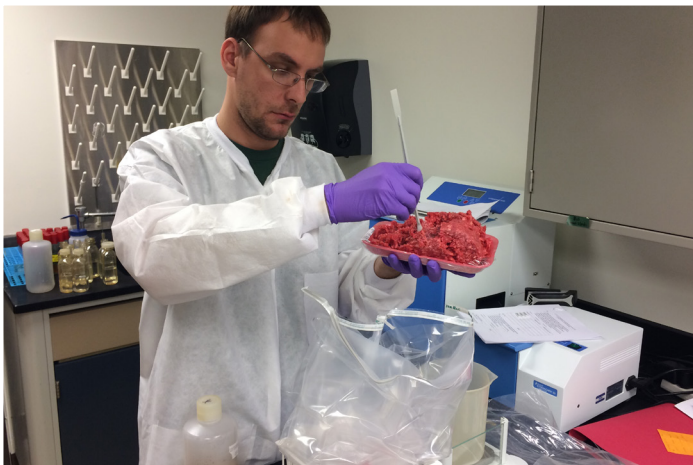
Food Safety

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture's food testing laboratory provides analytical services for food safety programs. Regulatory officers inspect food products and collect samples for laboratory testing. The laboratory performs both routine regulatory food surveillance, method development and outbreak response to foodborne illness.

FOOD AND DAIRY TESTING

Several state laws mandate the inspection and collection of dairy samples for analysis. Soft-serve ice cream samples are collected for laboratory analysis during the inspection and testing of sanitary conditions in WV manufacturing sites. The laboratory received 3,113 frozen desserts and dairy product samples for coliform bacterial counts and standard plates from 319 facility inspections. Eighty-nine fluid milk in packaged form and other dairy products were collected from retail sites or under contract testing. They were tested for compliance on their labeling of milk fat. Regulatory officers instructed 25 manufacturers of soft serve ice cream with proper cleaning and sanitizing procedures. Under the Frozen Dessert and Imitation Frozen Dessert Program, thirty-four, 24-hour shut down orders and 11 summary suspensions were issued due to product violations. The dairy laboratory performs contract testing for the WV Department of Education Summer Lunch Program for samples collected from preparation sites and satellite sites located statewide. Forty-six food samples for salmonella species and coliform bacteria were tested.

The Meat Laboratory analyzes a wide variety of products including ground meats, processed meats, smoked seafood products and several others. The purpose of the testing is to ensure that meat, poultry and seafood products sold in West Virginia are compliant with regulations and guidelines set forth by the state, USDA and FDA. The Meat Laboratory received a total of 41 samples to be analyzed for: protein, fat, moisture, salt, nitrites, added water and or moisture to protein ratio.



The Microbiology Laboratory provides bacteriological analyses for the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division (MPID) and the commercial meat industry inspected by the MPID as outlined in the USDA rules for "Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems." One service offered by this laboratory to the public sector provides testing of carcasses for *E. coli* biotype 1 to verify slaughter process control. A total of 140 sponge samples were analyzed with the results returned to the commercial establishment for inclusion in each respective firm's process control verification program with eight positive results. *Salmonella* species

analysis of raw ground meat products, carcass sponges, dry dog food and ready-to-eat (RTE) meat products comprises another service provided by this unit. One hundred eighty-five samples were analyzed for the presence of salmonella with one violation detected.

Polymerase Chain-Reaction (PCR) is molecular testing used to screen samples. The technology's speed and accuracy has significantly changed the amount of time it takes to obtain results. A majority of the microbiology laboratory's samples are screened using PCR that can provide results in approximately one

day. The microbiology laboratory has two PCR platforms used for sample testing - the BioRad MiniOpticon and the Dupont BAX system. A total of 72, raw ground beef samples and 20 N-60 samples were analyzed for the presence of *E. coli* O157:H7 with no violations detected. Fifteen samples were analyzed for listeria monocytogenes with no violations. Thirteen RTE meat products were analyzed for listeria monocytogenes using PCR.

FOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK

On September 30, 2016, the WVDA was awarded a highly competitive Microbiological and Chemistry Cooperative Agreement through the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) and the USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS). FERN is a collaboration of federal, state and local laboratories and universities which integrate the nation's food-testing laboratories into a network that can respond to emergencies involving biological, chemical or radiological contamination of food. This grant supports the salaries of more than two, full time employees, supplies, equipment, training, travel and maintenance costs related to research, validation, proficiency and surveillance testing. The WVDA Microbiology and Pesticide Residue Laboratories analyzed a total of 1,989 samples and controls for FERN.

The WVDA held a workgroup to validate a screening detection method for ricin in foods. The WVDA led monthly meetings, directed research efforts, compiled results and wrote the official method for this workgroup. The workgroup consisted of six FERN CAP laboratories and representatives from the FERN National Program Office. The WVDA received a commendation letter for their exceptional achievement regarding this activity from FERN FSIS NPO. This method has been sent for consideration as an official method to the National Method Coordination and Technical Review Committees of FERN. The WVDA presented this successful validation study at the FERN National CAP meeting in at the USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C. in November 2017.

In 2017, the WVDA Microbiology and Pesticide/Residue Laboratory wrote a new proposal to FERN FSIS for a grant request and was awarded \$243,000. Only ten Tier-1 laboratories were funded in the nation as a Level-1 lab, including state agricultural, public health and university laboratories.

ISO ACCREDITATION AND FOOD SAMPLING PLAN

In 2016, the WVDA food laboratory was accredited for fifteen methods. This was accomplished through a FDA grant that provided funding from 2012 through 2017. The accreditation process involves the standardization of quality assurance practices regarding management and technical competencies. This designation allows the laboratory to assist the state in complying with the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards (MFRPS). The accreditation is also necessary to deem the laboratory technically competent in order to support analysis for USDA and FDA programs. After receiving ISO accreditation, the WVDA laboratory received additional contracts from several agencies and processing plants for laboratory testing. In order to maintain and expand ISO accreditation, the laboratory applied for another ISO grant that began in September 2017 and will supplement the costs associated with accreditation and sampling food products in WV.





Agriculture Industry Protection

AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

Agricultural materials generally refer to raw materials used on the farm or at an agricultural business in the production process. Some of the materials regulated by the WVDA include: commercial agricultural fertilizer materials, agricultural liming materials and agricultural and forest seeds.

FERTILIZER

Companies register their products with the WVDA, and the samples are analyzed in order to verify compliance to the label. Two hundred forty-three fertilizer samples were collected resulting in 175 violations. The penalties collected amounted to \$25,344.10 with \$7,384.43 paid directly to consumers. Twelve Fertilizer Formulation Permits were also issued. Two hundred eighty-two companies registered 4,165 products. One hundred fourteen companies registered 576 soil amendments, compost and horticultural growing media for a total of \$43,200.

The primary and secondary containment of the fertilizers rule establishes standards for fertilizer for the purpose of protecting the groundwater resources of West Virginia. We currently have 12 firms holding storage facility permits; seven liquid, ten dry. Five of these firms have both liquid and dry. No fees are associated with this permit.

Fertilizer and lime samples are analyzed at the Charleston Laboratory. The WVDA Regulatory Officers submit official samples; they can also be submitted by individuals, county extension agents and companies. Emphasis in testing is placed on confirmation of label claims of these products. Quality control procedures within the laboratory are stringent and personnel routinely participate in proficiency sample programs (i.e. Magruder Fertilizer and the AFPC Fertilizer programs) to ensure the precision and accuracy of the laboratory's results and the competency of the laboratory staff. The laboratory also has the capabilities of performing microscopy to check samples for adulteration or contamination.

LIME

Under the Agricultural Liming Materials Law there were eight samples collected and delivered to the laboratory for analysis with 12 violations. Fines totaled \$1028.70. There are 168 lime products registered with 87,074 tons sold in West Virginia for a total of \$35,524.74.

SEED

Under the West Virginia Seed Law, the Trueness-to-Variety Seed sampling, and in cooperation with the USDA Agricultural Research Station in Gastonia, NC, there were 31 seed samples collected. One hundred twenty-one commercial holdover seed samples were tested. Under the WV Seed Law, a total of 31 official seed samples were collected from retail establishments to ensure proper product labeling of company, purity, germination, noxious weed seed and seed treatment information. Thirty-seven embargoes were issued.

The seed laboratory receives samples of agricultural, vegetable, lawn, tree and shrub seeds collected from wholesale and retail outlets by Regulatory and Environmental Affairs (READ) officers. Service samples can also be submitted by individuals, county extension agents and companies. Samples are primarily analyzed for germination, purity and noxious weed seed for confirmation of label claims. The seed laboratory follows quality control and method guidelines from the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA) and the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).

A photograph showing two people, a man with curly brown hair and a woman with long blonde hair, both wearing dark jackets, looking at a tree trunk in a forest. The man is on the left, looking towards the right, and the woman is on the right, touching the tree bark with her right hand. In the background, a white pickup truck is parked on a road next to a red building.

Forest Health

The Plant Industries Division of the WVDA oversees a wide array of native and non-native plant pests and diseases through extensive surveillance, regulatory and control programs, many as part of federal cooperative agreements. The division is divided into two main units: Agriculture Pest Survey (APS) and Forest Health Protection (FHP).

AGRICULTURE PEST SURVEY PROGRAM

The APS program consists of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Program, Plant Pest Regulatory Program (PPRP), Industrial Hemp Program (IHP), Black Fly Control Program and Pest Identification Laboratory Program (PIL). CAPS conducts surveys for insects (light brown apple moth, silver Y moth), plant pathogens and injurious weeds (mile-a-minute weed) in field crops to detect any new, non-native plant pests and to monitor the impact of native agricultural pests. PPRP works to prevent the movement of plant pathogens on nursery stock produced in West Virginia and nursery products imported to the state including investigating the movement of articles capable of transporting the gypsy moth into uninfested areas. This unit also certifies lumber and logs for international shipment. Additionally the PPRP unit implements the registration process for the West Virginia IHP, organizing seed imports, distributing seed and collecting crop samples for tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) testing. The Black Fly Control Program has the responsibility of significantly reducing the black fly population in southeastern WV without adversely affecting non-target aquatic organisms within the area of treatment. The PIL program provides expertise in identifying and disseminating information about pests found within the state.

- 192 samples were collected at 24 apiaries in 23 counties for the National Honey Bee Survey.
- Registered 71 nurseries and 334 nursery dealerships; conducted 99 nursery inspections and 109 nursery dealership inspections, resulting in the stop-sale of 10 pieces of nursery stock because of injurious plant pests or plant quarantines.
- Eight full licenses to grow industrial hemp were issued with seven reporting their production for 2016.
- Handled 625 pest calls, 247 pest specimens and 36 literature requests, provided nine youth programs and six adult educational programs.

FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION PROGRAMS

(FHP) includes Forest Insect and Disease Survey and Detection programs. The Gypsy Moth Program is by far the largest single program under the FHP. The goal is to slow the spread of the pest into non-infested areas and suppress populations in infested areas to limit defoliation and tree mortality. In 2017, 3,607 gypsy moth traps were set and 52,246 acres were checked by FHP staff. Other disease survey and detection programs include: beech scale, thousand cankers, hemlock wooly adelgid and emerald ash borer.

- 78 resistant beech trees were planted at the resistant beech orchard at the United States Forest Service (USFS) Timber and Watershed Laboratory in Parsons, WV.
- Conducted Emerald Ash Borer detection surveys and found EAB in 3 new counties, Tucker, Randolph and Pocahontas.
- Surveyed 52,246 acres using the USDA-FS Forest Disturbance Monitor.
- Visited 5,026 landowners to survey for gypsy moth presence.

INDUSTRIAL HEMP

The Plant Pest Regulatory Program (PPRP) unit implements the registration process for the WV Industrial Hemp Program, organizes seed imports, distributes seed and collects crop samples for THC testing.

- Eight full licenses to grow industrial hemp were issued with seven reporting their production for the 2016 growing season.
- 342.6 kg of seed was dispensed by WVDA personnel.
- Post-harvest reporting for 2016 growing season:
- Five varieties of industrial hemp were grown.
- 13.5 acres were planted.
- 160.6 kg of seed was planted by growers.
- Total reported production: 7.3 kg of seed, 73.7 kg of fiber, and 907 kg of flour.

TIMBER INSPECTION

This unit also certifies lumber and logs for international shipment through a cooperative agreement with the US-DA-APHIS. WVDA streamlined the inspection process for numerous timber mills, signing additional cooperative agreements within the fiscal year. Mills have the option to be inspected by WVDA staff or by USDA staff at ports.

CALENDAR YEAR 2015:

- WVDA issued 2,436 certificates for 4,117 shipping containers of lumber and logs.
- USDA issued 1,320 certificates for 2,231 containers.
- Total issued: 3,756 certificates for 6,348 containers.

CALENDAR YEAR 2016:

- WVDA issued 2,560 certificates for 4,326 shipping containers of lumber and logs.
- USDA issued 1,678 certificates for 2,836 containers.
- Total issued: 4,238 certificates for 7,162 containers.

CALENDAR YEAR 2017: (INCOMPLETE)

- WVDA issued 2,908 certificates for 4,915 shipping containers of lumber and logs.
- USDA issued 1,889 certificates for 3,192 containers.
- Total issued: 4,797 certificates for 8,107 containers.



A photograph showing several children sitting at a table in a school cafeteria, eating from plates and drinking from bottles. The image is slightly faded and serves as a background for the title.

Commodities

FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The WVDA administers the Food Distribution and Child Nutrition Programs that provide economic support to WV school-age children and to those in need through the distribution of USDA Commodity Foods and Department of Defense fresh fruit and vegetables. These foods help support American farmers, keeping local agriculture strong and stimulating the economy. USDA Foods are 100% American-grown and meet the highest safety and nutrition standards. Ongoing updates are made to ensure that all USDA foods meet the dietary guidelines for Americans, including reduced levels of fats, sodium and sugars.

WVDA FOOD DISTRIBUTION SECTION

- Administered \$12.6 million in federally funded food
- Delivered to 725 public and private schools and 162 summer feeding programs, among others
- Performed 148 school inspections

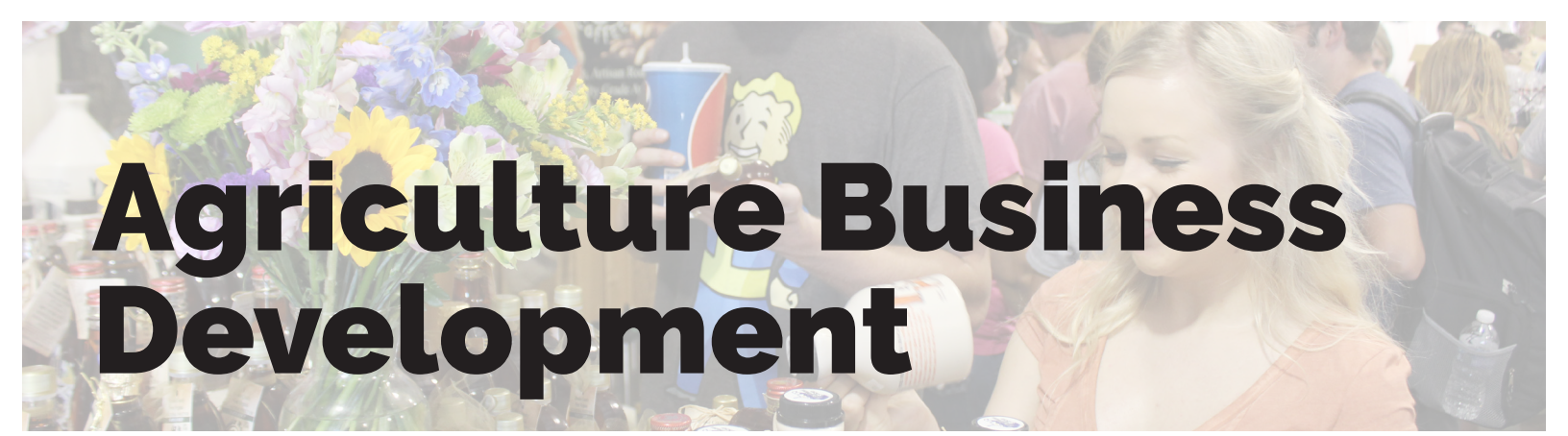
During this FY, these programs distributed and administered approximately \$12.6 million in federally funded food. Recipient agencies include approximately 725 public and private schools, 60 child and adult care programs and 162 summer feeding programs held in county schools, WV Extension and 4-H programs. West Virginia's two food banks service 426 food pantries which distribute to homeless shelters, soup kitchens and other charitable organizations. WVDA is responsible for training, inspecting and regulating recipients of USDA commodities which included 148 school inspections, 95 food bank/pantry inspections and 232 civil rights trainings during the last FY.

New to the WVDA Food Distribution Program in January 2017, was the addition of the Commodity Supplemental Feeding Program (CSFP). This program works to improve the health of low-income, elderly persons at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods. Qualifying participants receive an extra 35-40 pounds of food each month that has been prepackaged by the food banks and distributed to local agencies. During this first year of the program, 3,927 cases were received and distributed with a goal to increase participation during the current fiscal year.



SENIOR FARMER'S MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, also funded by USDA and administered by WVDA, brought nearly \$490,000 to the state. The program provided \$28 in vouchers to more than 16,500 households in all 55 of West Virginia's counties. The vouchers can be redeemed at participating farmers' markets for fresh, West Virginia-grown produce. The program also provided nearly 6,500 Title III C households with apples as part of their home-delivered meals.



Agriculture Business Development

AGRICULTURE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The newly formed Agriculture Business Development Division is tasked with providing assistance to foster new business development and collaboration for expanding existing agribusinesses. The goal is to reach out with tools and partnerships to make potential businesses aware of the services and support the WVDA and its partners can provide. The division has been instrumental in attracting and administering grant programs, including \$230,000 in Specialty Crop Block Grants to fund 12 projects in the coming year and a \$200,000 ACER Access and Development Grant to continue research and accelerate the growth of the maple industry in Appalachia.

WEST VIRGINIA GROWN

Part of the Division's mission is to expand and rebrand the "WV Grown" program. Agribusinesses participating in the program may use a readily identifiable logo on their products. It indicates to consumers they are a verified West Virginia company using high quality ingredients. Companies opting into the program will have access to research such as marketing opportunities and channels.

WEST VIRGINIA VETERANS AND WARRIORS TO AGRICULTURE

The mission of the program remains to recruit, retrain and mentor our men and women currently serving or those who have served our country for new career opportunities in agriculture. Vets to Ag participants are involved in everything from beef farming to bee keeping. Commissioner Leonhardt also joined forces with the national Homegrown by Heroes brand, signing an agreement to use the national label for WV-approved producers.

AGRIBUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

The division provided exposure for state products at many high-profile events over the past year including: the Winter Blues Farmers' Market, National Boy Scout Jamboree and State Fair of West Virginia.

Winter Blues Farmers' Market – Feb. 2017

- Four hours
- 4,000 shoppers
- \$46,000 of local products sold

State Fair of WV (WVDA Country Store) – August 2017

- 10 days
- 35 WV Vendors
- \$61,028.38 of local products sold

Boy Scouts National Jamboree – July 2017

- WV honey and syrup sold at "Trading Post". The first WV local food products offered in the "Trading Post" and both products sold out completely.
- 10 days of sampling WV honey and maple syrup

SEVEN EMERGING CROPS

West Virginia Maple Day was held in March. Eleven maple producers throughout the state opened their doors to media and the public to demonstrate how maple sap is harvested from trees and then turned into syrup and other sweet products. This was the second year that maple producers were included in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Maple Syrup Survey, notable because in previous years the state's production was considered insufficient to merit measurement. Production increased 33 percent to 9,000 gallons over 2016. The state can also count at least 61,000 taps.

Current Fiscal Picture

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Administrative Services Division manages financial and human resources as well as physical facilities for the WVDA and the West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA). It also provides fiscal administrative support for related entities, including the West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority (WVALPA), the Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program and other boards and committees organized under WV Code § 19.

FISCAL MANAGEMENT

For the state FY ending June 30, 2017, the fiscal management section processed transactions totaling \$39.6 million for the WVDA and associated entities. This section also provides key decision support and assists with strategic planning of future agency operations by evaluating funding needs and analyzing existing resources. The WVDA Rural Rehabilitation Loan Fund (RRLF) (WV Code § 19-1-11) currently holds a total loan portfolio of more than \$3.4 million.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

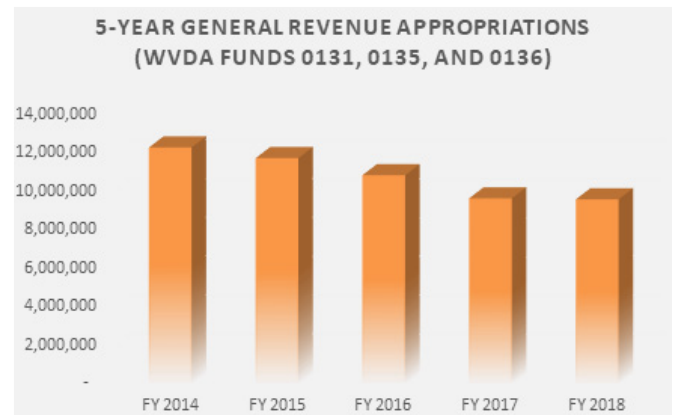
The Building and Grounds section is responsible for the maintenance and renovation of the facilities at Guthrie Agricultural Center as well as other WVDA locations. Staff routinely perform plumbing, electrical, carpentry, HVAC, custodial, snow removal with salt applications and waste water treatment. Staff are primarily assigned to facilities operation, repair and janitorial duties at the Guthrie location but may consult or perform work to repair and upgrade WVDA's other locations throughout the state.

FISCAL POSITION

Many of WVDA's programs strive for self-sufficiency, to reduce the reliance on general revenue resources appropriated annually by the West Virginia Legislature. As noted in the graph to the right, WVDA has experienced reductions year-after-year in total general revenue appropriations made available to WVDA since FY 2014. Continuing reductions to general revenue in the Budget Bill and mid-year cuts in prior years have resulted in FY 2018 funding being at its lowest point in five years.*

While baseline general revenue appropriations have decreased, operating expenditures have increased steadily, which has necessitated use of special or federal revenue resources to fill the gap and maintain statutory agency operations. However, this practice leaves little to no funding to invest in critical needs and hampers programs' abilities to be truly self-sufficient.

Resources must be available to address facility repairs and upgrades as well as purchase up to date laboratory equipment. Lab staff must be trained on the newest testing methods. Lastly, adequate personal services funding must be available to recruit and compensate a well-trained staff at competitive levels. With all funding going to support basic operations, there are no resources available to develop new programs when a need or demand arises. This includes programs such as West Virginia Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture or statewide farmers' market business development activities.



*Excluding General Revenue appropriation for Cedar Lakes Camp and Conference Center, which began in FY 2017 to coincide with the transfer of that facility to WVDA.

Loan Program

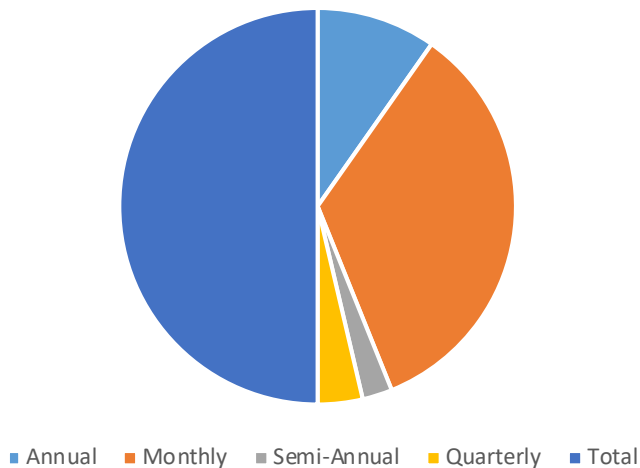
RURAL REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM

The Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program (RRLP) exists as a valuable tool to promote investment in the agriculture industry in the state. Loans are to be used for:

- Starting, purchasing or expanding a farm operation
- Assisting farmers who have suffered financial setbacks from natural disasters
- Operators that need additional resources to redirect or maintain profitable farming operations
- Any other agricultural purpose determined important to West Virginia's economy

Applications are reviewed by a committee of five members consisting of one WVDA employee, one member with agricultural experience, one member with business loan experience and two at-large members. The RRLP has a current total loan portfolio of more than \$3.4 million, and the loan committee solicited and evaluated loan applications throughout the year to support additional opportunities. During FY 2017, the RRLP worked with the Attorney General's Office to obtain permission to write-off a group of non-performing loans with an outstanding balance of over \$90,000 that lacked sufficient collateral and had been delinquent for an extended period of time.

Loan Payment Frequencies



Annual	20%
Monthly	68%
Semi-Annual	5%
Quarterly	7%
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Total	100%

Ag Stats

Under a continuing agreement since 1915, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture have operated the West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service. The NASS mission is to provide timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. Agriculture. This service collects, summarizes and distributes agricultural information for the state and is recognized as the official source of agricultural statistics. Under this cooperation, there is no duplication of efforts by the state and federal agencies. Funding for the WV Agricultural Statistics Service is provided entirely by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The NASS was established as the USDA Division of Statistics in 1863. Since 1866, it has published a continuing series of reports on major crops, livestock and agricultural prices. The ever-increasing need for data in the field of agriculture has caused the program to expand to over 100 farm products. Various reports contain current forecasts of production, annual conditions and annual disposition of agricultural commodities. Information on the prices of items in production, prices received for output and amount and type of labor used are also collected and published. Farmers, processors, distributors, transportation industries, lending institutions, governments and individuals use this data.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Farmers and agriculturally-related businesses are the source of practically all information gathered by the West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service. The reporting process is voluntary and primarily collected by three methods: personal interview, telephone interview and mail surveys. Most interviews are conducted by enumerators employed by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). Surveys include the Quarterly Agricultural Surveys which are conducted to collect crop and livestock information. These surveys combine samples of areas of land and large operators to give estimates based on known probabilities of error. The NASS also has the responsibility of conducting the Census of Agriculture on a five-year cycle. The Census of Agriculture is the most ambitious and important compilation of all agricultural surveys and is the only source of consistent, comparable and comprehensive data on production, economics and operator characteristics at the national, state and county levels. Responding to the Census of Agriculture is required by law (Title 7, U.S. Code). This same law also guarantees that individual information will be kept confidential and used only for statistical purposes. The 2017 Census of Agriculture data will be released in early 2019. The following table and charts show some interesting statistics for West Virginia and the United States.



West Virginia Cash Receipts from Farm Marketings: 2012-2016/1

COMMODITY	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	(000) Dollars				
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS	536,162	610,411	680,449	596,830	548,594
Meat animals	173,514	204,873	252,463	211,460	170,475
Cattle and calves	172,570	203,850	251,814	210,960	169,923
Hogs	944	1,023	649	500	552
Dairy products, Milk	28,880	30,450	33,672	24,325	21,091
Poultry and eggs	294,452	335,391	354,884	321,754	317,745
Broilers	188,000	233,816	236,773	191,582	168,352
Chicken eggs	40,760	46,209	55,887	54,603	55,890
Farm chickens	1,451	1,767	2,072	2,092	1,817
Turkeys	64,241	53,599	60,152	73,477	91,686
Miscellaneous livestock and products/2	39,316	39,697	39,430	39,291	39,283
Trout	1,022	1,255	1,233	1,052	1,231
Honey	838	1,010	757	777	597
Wool	108	90	98	120	113
Other animals and products	37,348	37,342	37,342	37,342	37,342
CROPS	152,683	149,352	151,805	142,756	140,795
Food grains (Wheat)	2,145	2,040	2,602	1,644	1,224
Feed crops	55,977	62,711	64,152	57,796	56,203
Corn	22,998	24,475	21,512	17,637	17,391
Hay	32,978	38,236	42,640	40,158	38,812
Oil crops (Soybeans)	12,130	14,159	13,014	10,740	11,560
Fruits and nuts/3	29,953	17,922	19,495	20,023	18,964
Apples	23,193	13,008	14,140	13,967	15,149
Peaches	6,760	4,914	5,355	6,056	3,815
All other crops /4	52,479	52,520	52,542	52,554	52,844
Maple products	-	-	-	-	290
Mushrooms	179	180	182	194	194
Miscellaneous crops	52,300	52,340	52,360	52,360	52,360
ALL COMMODITIES	688,846	759,763	832,253	739,585	689,389

/1Cash receipts reflect sales of commodities from farms where produced within a calendar year irrespective of the year of production. Data as of August 30, 2017. Values are rounded to the nearest thousand. Totals may not add due to rounding. '-' means not available or zero. /2 Includes equine, sheep, all other livestock, and mohair. 3/ Includes miscellaneous fruits and berries. 4/ Includes greenhouse/nursery, Christmas trees, oats, vegetables, tobacco, and other crops. Source: USDA, Economic Research Service <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/farm-income-and-wealth-statistics.aspx>.

Cash Receipts: Selected Commodities, West Virginia, 2016

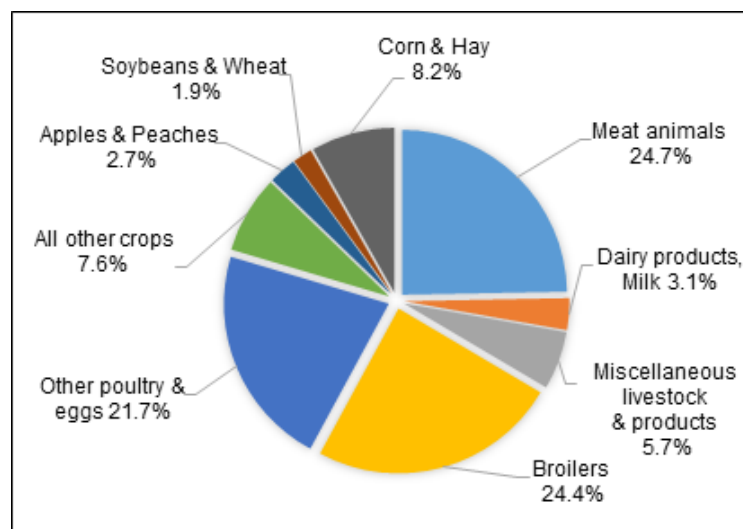


Figure 1: Chart of 2016 West Virginia cash receipts from farm marketings by percent of total.

SELECTED RED MEAT AND CHICKEN CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA FOR THE UNITED STATES

This chart shows the per capita consumption of the United States resident population for beef, chicken, pork and lamb from the years 1915 to 2015 with these exceptions: prior to 1930, except for the war years, 1917-1919, resident population only; in the year of 1930 and after, the population included the Armed Forces overseas. Currently, chicken is the meat of choice, followed by beef, pork and lamb. Per capita consumption of selected red meats and poultry during 2015 was as follows: chicken ~ 89.3 pounds; beef ~ 53.8 pounds; pork ~ 49.2 pounds; and lamb ~ 1.0 pound. Data for 2016 was not available at the time of publishing.

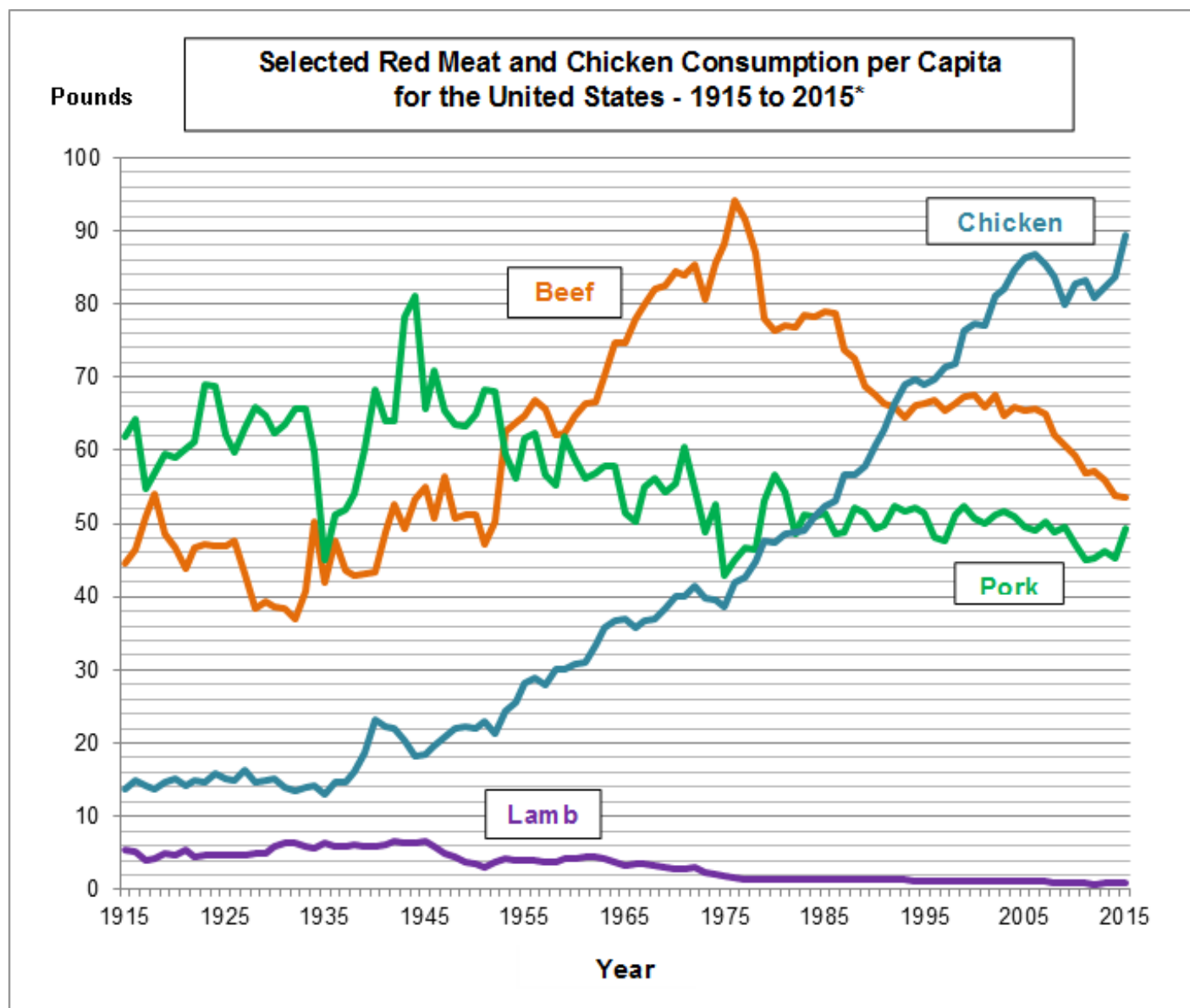


Figure 2: Chart of the selected red meat and chicken consumption per capita. * Comparison data on retail-weight equivalent of turkeys were not available. Source: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-availability-per-capita-data-system/>.



West Virginia Department of Agriculture

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agriculture.wv.gov